



Sharing Enhancing Enjoying Protecting...  
Ludwell Valley Park

---

## April 2020 Newsletter

Like everything at the moment, this month's newsletter is dominated by the coronavirus crisis. Obviously no new conservation tasks or other events will be happening for a while, but remember, Ludwell Valley Park is still a wonderful place. Where better to take the once-a-day exercise we are allowed?

Also in this newsletter, a report on February and March's conservation sessions; news of the new benches in the Community Orchard field; what happened when two of us gave a talk about the Valley at the Countess Wear Village Hall AGM last month; and finally a rather exciting wildlife discovery.

In the last newsletter, we talked about how pleased we were with Devon Wildlife Trusts' plans to enhance the Valley. Well, there is some news coming soon - watch out for it!

Finally, we are in great need of someone who is good with social media and would be willing to help with our Facebook and Twitter accounts - and maybe even our website. Please e-mail us if you might be able to help: [ludwelllife@gmail.com](mailto:ludwelllife@gmail.com)

---



## **The Valley Park and the Coronavirus crisis**

As long as things don't worsen, and we are allowed out for exercise once a day, the Valley Park is a great place to go. More people than usual are walking round the park, which is great to see. If you live near enough and haven't already tried it, why not give it a go? The birds are active, butterflies are out, hedges are rapidly greening, the blackthorn blossom is spectacular and the cherry blossom won't be far behind.

There is plenty of space and people seem to be being very responsible about social distancing. Obviously, for our own safety and for that of others, we must all follow the guidance, not drive there and once there, keep our distance of at least 2 metres from other people.

There are one or two places where it is difficult to keep your distance, particularly the Panny Path, which is quite narrow in places, so do be aware of this before walking along it.





## February's Tremendous Tree Plant

Back in February, about 30 people, children and adults, helped Devon Wildlife Trust and Ludwell Life plant no less than 450 young tree whips in Ellis' field. This is the lovely field that slopes down at the north eastern end of the Valley Park, and was brought into the Park just two years ago. As you may be able to see on the picture, the whips are already starting to come into leaf (as is the undergrowth!) But it will make a wonderful area of woodland.

---





## **March: Caring for the Mini-Woodland on the Panny Path**

On a wet Sunday morning at the start of March, 20 people braved the weather to clear weeds from the new mini-woodland and wildflower bulbs - and to pick up litter - on the Panny Path. We made a real difference, as you will see if you walk along there. And eventually the sun came out! Thanks to everybody who joined in, with a special mention to the local Good Gym members.

You may have seen the report on Facebook at the time, a report the City Council picked up and used in their newsletter as well.

---

---



## Community Orchard Benches

This is one of the two benches just recently installed in the corner of the Community Orchard field. They are the first part of what we hope will eventually be a semi circle, to enjoy as the orchard trees mature, for picnics, to watch the birds and wildlife.

A lot of people and organisations made donations towards the cost, for which we are all very grateful. We had hoped to hold an official opening at which to thank them, but that is another thing on hold due to the coronavirus. Thanks also to Chris from DWT for arranging the installation - and for being the first, with David from Ludwell Life, to try them out!

---

## Ludwell Valley Park *past, present and future*



Lynn Wetenhall & Laurie Fentimen  
6th March 2020

Lynn and Laurie were very pleased to be invited to give this talk about the Valley Park at Countess Wear Village Hall's AGM. We had an attentive audience who asked a number of good questions and made some very pertinent points about promoting the uniqueness of the Park, about access, and how people could find out about and influence the plans for Northbrook Approach (another initiative since delayed by coronavirus). We have shared these points with DWT, who have committed to as wide a public engagement as possible on the Northbrook plans.



### **Harvest Mice**

The harvest mouse is tiny. It is the second smallest European mammal, less than 3 inches long and weighing about the same as a 2 pence piece! And they are pretty rare. So Ludwell Lifer Andy made an exciting discovery this winter - we have some in the Valley - and they are nesting! Here is Andy's photo of a nest and a lovely picture of a mouse courtesy of Paul Thrush/Devon Wildlife Trust.

if you want to know more about the harvest mouse, have a look on DWT's website,

or there is a really good article in their latest quarterly members' magazine.

---

Ludwell Life is an independent community group, set up to protect and enhance Ludwell Valley Park

Our mailing address is: 50 Well Oak Park, EX2 5BB

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

---

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Ludwell Life · 50 Well Oak Park · Exeter, Devon EX2 5BB · United Kingdom

